

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic still camera, comprising:

a charge storage type image-capturing element that stores electrical charges in correspondence to subject brightness-~~distribution~~; distribution and reads out image data corresponding to said electrical charges;

a buffer memory unit that stores said image data read out by said image-capturing element;

a continuous shooting setting unit that sets either a first continuous shooting mode or a second continuous shooting mode in which photographs are taken over shorter intervals than in said first continuous shooting mode; and

a recording signal output circuit that repeatedly stores electrical charges at said image-capturing element and reads out image data from said image-capturing element to store said image data at said buffer memory unit when either continuous shooting mode has been set by said continuous shooting setting unit and compresses and outputs image data corresponding to a frame which has been read out from said buffer memory unit immediately ~~before-before~~, while electrical charges for the next frame are being stored during, at least, a period of time in which said second continuous shooting mode has been set.

2. (Original) An electronic still camera according to claim 1, wherein:

said image-capturing element is provided with a plurality of pixels; and

said recording signal output circuit reads out image data only from some of the pixels at said image-capturing element while said second continuous shooting mode has been set.

3. (Original) An electronic still camera according to claim 1, wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, an image-capturing sensitivity higher than an image-capturing sensitivity for said first continuous shooting mode has been set.

4. (Original) An electronic still camera according to claim 2, wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, an image-capturing sensitivity higher than an image-capturing sensitivity for said first continuous shooting mode has been set.

5. (Original) An electronic still camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

an exposure value setting unit that sets shutter speed and aperture corresponding to subject brightness in conformance to a predetermined program chart, wherein:

said exposure value setting unit is provided with a first continuous shooting mode program chart and a second continuous shooting mode program chart, with said second continuous shooting mode program chart shifted toward a higher shutter speed side relative to said first continuous shooting mode program chart.

6. (Original) An electronic still camera according to claim 2, further comprising:

an exposure value setting unit that sets shutter speed and aperture corresponding to subject brightness in conformance to a predetermined program chart, wherein:

said exposure value setting unit is provided with a first continuous shooting mode program chart and a second continuous shooting mode program chart, with said second continuous shooting mode program chart shifted toward a higher shutter speed side relative to said first continuous shooting mode program chart.

7. (Original) An electronic still camera according to claim 3, further comprising:
an exposure value setting unit that sets shutter speed and aperture
corresponding to subject brightness in conformance to a predetermined program chart,
wherein:

said exposure value setting unit is provided with a first continuous shooting
mode program chart and a second continuous shooting mode program chart, with said second
continuous shooting mode program chart shifted toward a higher shutter speed side relative to
said first continuous shooting mode program chart.

8. (Original) An electronic still camera according to claim 1, further comprising:
a mechanical shutter provided to block photographic, light fluxes traveling to
said image-capturing element, wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, electrical charges
are stored at said image-capturing element and image data are read out from said image-
capturing element while said mechanical shutter is left open.

9. (Original) An electronic still camera according to claim 2, further comprising:
a mechanical shutter provided to block photographic, light fluxes traveling to
said image-capturing element, wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, electrical charges
are stored at said image-capturing element and image data are read out from said image-
capturing element while said mechanical shutter is left open.

10. (Original) An electronic still camera according to claim 3, further comprising:
a mechanical shutter provided to block photographic, light fluxes traveling to
said image-capturing element, wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, electrical charges are stored at said image-capturing element and image data are read out from said image-capturing element while said mechanical shutter is left open.

11. (Original) An electronic still camera according to claim 5, further comprising:
a mechanical shutter provided to block photographic, light fluxes traveling to said image-capturing element, wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, electrical charges are stored at said image-capturing element and image data are read out from said image-capturing element while said mechanical shutter is left open.

12. (Original) An electronic still camera according to claim 1, wherein:
when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, a shutter speed corresponding to a continuous shooting speed is set at a lower speed limit.

13. (Original) An electronic still camera according to claim 2, wherein:
when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, a shutter speed corresponding to a continuous shooting speed is set at a lower speed limit.

14. (Original) An electronic still camera according to claim 3, wherein:
when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, a shutter speed corresponding to a continuous shooting speed is set at a lower speed limit.

15. (Original) An electronic still camera according to claim 5, wherein:
when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, a shutter speed corresponding to a continuous shooting speed is set at a lower speed limit.

16. (Original) An electronic still camera according to claim 8, wherein:
when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, a shutter speed corresponding to a continuous shooting speed is set at a lower speed limit.

17. (Original) An electronic still camera, comprising:

a charge storage type image-capturing element that stores electrical charges in correspondence to subject brightness distribution;

a continuous shooting setting unit that sets either a first continuous shooting mode or a second continuous shooting mode in which photographs are taken over shorter intervals than in said first continuous shooting mode;

a recording signal output circuit that repeatedly stores electrical charges at said image-capturing element and reads out image data from said image-capturing element when either continuous shooting mode has been set by said continuous shooting setting unit and reads out image data only from some of the pixels at said image-capturing elements while said second continuous shooting mode has been set; and

a sensitivity setting unit that sets a higher image-capturing sensitivity in said second continuous shooting mode than an image-capturing sensitivity set in said first continuous shooting mode.

18. (Original) An electronic still camera, comprising:

a charge storage type image-capturing element that stores electrical charges in correspondence to subject brightness distribution;

a continuous shooting setting unit that sets either a first continuous shooting mode or a second continuous shooting mode in which photographs are taken over shorter intervals than in said first continuous shooting mode;

a recording signal output circuit that repeatedly stores electrical charges at said image-capturing element and reads out image data from said image-capturing element when either continuous shooting mode has been set by said continuous shooting setting unit and reads out image data only from some of the pixels at said image-capturing elements while said second continuous shooting mode has been set; and

an exposure value setting unit that sets shutter speed and aperture corresponding to subject brightness in conformance to a predetermined program chart, wherein:

said exposure value setting unit is provided with a first continuous shooting mode program chart and a second continuous shooting mode program chart, with said second continuous shooting mode program chart shifted toward a higher shutter speed side relative to said first continuous shooting mode program chart.

19. (Currently Amended) An electronic still camera, comprising:

_____ a charge storage type image-capturing element that stores electrical charges in correspondence to subject brightness distribution;

a continuous shooting setting unit that sets either a first continuous shooting mode or a second continuous shooting mode in which photographs are taken over shorter intervals than in said first continuous shooting mode;

a recording signal output circuit that repeatedly stores electrical charges at said image-capturing element and reads out image data from said image-capturing element when either continuous shooting mode has been set by said continuous shooting setting unit and reads out image data only from some of the pixels at said image-capturing elements while said second continuous shooting mode has been set; and

a sensitivity setting unit that sets a higher image-capturing sensitivity in said second continuous shooting mode than an image-capturing sensitivity set in said first continuous shooting mode; and

an exposure value setting unit that sets shutter speed and aperture corresponding to subject brightness in conformance to a predetermined program chart, wherein:

said exposure value setting unit is provided with a first continuous shooting mode program chart and a second continuous shooting mode program chart, with said second

20. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera, comprising:

a charge storage type image-capturing element that stores electrical charges in correspondence to subject brightness-~~distribution~~; distribution and reads out image data corresponding to said electrical charges;

a buffer memory unit that stores said image data read out by said image-capturing element;

a single shot/continuous shooting setting unit that sets either a single shot mode or a continuous shooting mode; and

a recording signal output circuit that repeatedly stores electrical charges at said image-capturing element and reads out image data from said image-capturing element to store said image data at said buffer memory unit when said continuous shooting mode has been set by said single shot/continuous shooting setting unit and compresses and outputs image data corresponding to a frame read out from said buffer memory unit immediately ~~before~~ before, while electrical charges are being stored for the next frame.